# REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

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| Date of entry in Register: | 22 December 1998 |
| Name of applicant/court: | Comptroller of Customs |
| Applicant to the Labelling Body: | Not Applicable |
| Title of Publication: | Penthouse August 1998 US Edition |
| Other Known Titles: | Penthouse (US) August 1998 Vol 29 No 12 |
| Director: | Not Applicable |
| Producer: | Not Applicable |
| Publisher: | Bob Guccione |
| Author: | Not Applicable |
| Format: | Magazine |
| Country of Origin: | USA |
| Language: | English |

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**Components of film originally examined:** Not Applicable.

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| Feature: | Running time: |
| Trailers: | Running time: |
| | Total Running time: |

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

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Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable

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**SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:**

The magazine *Penthouse August 1998 US Edition* is classified as:
Objectionable.

The magazine is an issue of an American periodical, published monthly. The August issue contains articles, pictorial features, regular columns, letters from readers, cartoons and advertisements. Much of the content is of a sexual nature.

The publication promotes and supports the use of urine in association with sexual conduct. The magazine sponsors a competition called “The Great American ‘Pissing Contest’”. Information about the contest is illustrated with sample photographs of a woman urinating which are designed for the sexual arousal of the reader. The woman depicted is nude, her genitals and buttocks are prominent in each photograph's composition, her stance is sexually provocative and she directs urine at an object shaped like the male genitals. The magazine's introduction to the contest clearly states that photographs of women urinating should have "erotic appeal". Letters from readers in the same section refer to urination, approvingly, as a sexual act. Together, the photographs and the text place urination in a sexual context and promote it as a desirable and legitimate sexual practice.

The magazine has been found to promote and support an activity listed under s3(2) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. The provisions of s3(2) are inconsistent with, and override, the rights and freedoms affirmed in section 14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

OFLC Ref: 9801119